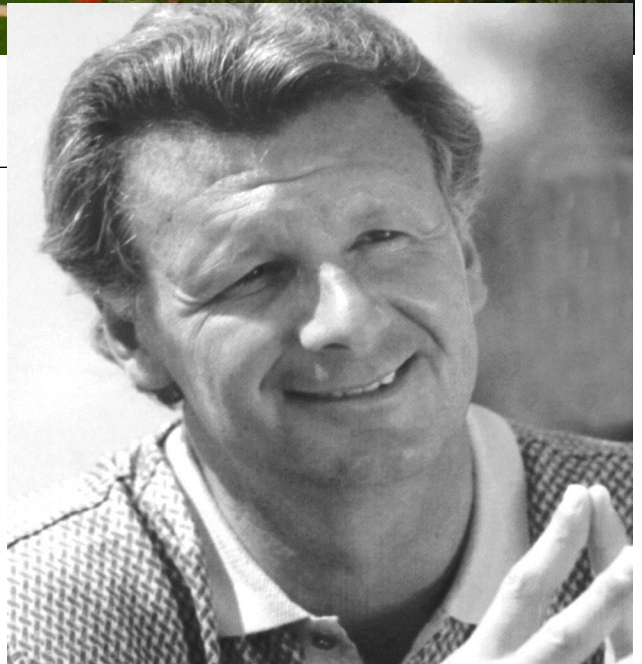


**Current Events in the
Michigan Senate**

September 2011

Lansing Update



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Senate Republicans' Fall Agenda

This fall, Senate Republicans are placing emphasis on job growth, education, protection of citizen rights, and continuing government reforms

Reform Personal Property Tax

- Personal property taxes punish businesses that expand and invest in new technology to remain competitive
- By removing barriers to new investment, Michigan firms can grow and expand, creating new jobs

Cut through the Red Tape for Business Growth

- Streamline the regulatory process and make it easier to do business in Michigan
- Time is money– the more quickly and efficiently job providers can move through permitting and regulatory procedures the faster they can get people to work

Rebuild Our Roads and Bridges

- Improve our crumbling roads and bridges and create thousands of jobs

Increase Education Options

- Create a highly-educated workforce and attract employers to our state that offer high-paying careers
- Empower parents with more and innovative choices to advance our education system and meet the educational needs of our students

Clarify Medical Marijuana

- Michigan voters authorized the use of medical marijuana out of compassion for those with terminal illness or chronic pain, but too many people are taking advantage of the law at the expense of those who truly need care

Ban Partial Birth Abortion

- Strengthen Michigan's law to protect life and make partial birth abortions a felony
- It is our obligation to assert Michigan's right to represent the interests of our citizens

Senior Protection

- Guard against those who would take financial advantage of defenseless senior citizens and provide stronger investigatory tools to prosecute cases of vulnerable adult abuse

Restore the American Dream

- Make mortgage fraud a felony
- Increase penalties for those who prey upon homeowners in vulnerable financial situations

Make Government More Accountable

- Let taxpayers see how their tax dollars are being spent
- Empower citizens to be engaged in government and help drive positive change

Insurance Reform

- Reform Michigan's no-fault law to provide more choices for drivers and end lifetime benefits for legislators
- Create the Michigan Insurance Marketplace to increase options for consumers and prevent the federal government from imposing a health care system upon our citizens

Senate bills to crack down on Medicaid fraud

Senate legislation was recently introduced to take a look at Medicaid spending and root out fraud, waste and abuse.

Senate Bills 598 and 599 would establish an office of Medicaid fraud in both the state human services and community health departments.

I look forward to following these bills through the process. In this economy, it's more important than ever to account for every dollar. We must do all we can to stop criminals who brazenly cheat consumers and taxpayers.

In the meantime, if you suspect Medicaid fraud contact the Health Care Fraud Division Hotline at 800-24-ABUSE.

Parental resource for teen driving

Do you have a new teen driver in the household?

Becoming a safe driver takes years of experience. Parents can help increase their child's safety by being involved in their teen's driving.

Visit www.saferdrivingforteens.org to learn more about teen driving safety and to register to use the free interactive parent-teen driving agreement.

The Michigan Department of Community Health and the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute developed the web site to help parents set and reinforce limits on high risk driving conditions for new teen drivers.

Passing the Partial Birth Abortion Ban

Senate Bills 160 and 161 were recently passed to ensure that partial birth abortions will remain illegal regardless of federal law. The federal ban started off in 2003 when former President George W. Bush signed the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007. Previous attempts in Michigan to pass a similar ban were vetoed by Jennifer Granholm.

QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact my office anytime to voice opinions, concerns, or ask questions. My staff will be more than happy to discuss any issues you have.

Ken Matiyow – Chief of Staff

Dan Papineau – Legislative Director

In the News...

Only a business-friendly Michigan will attract jobs

When I campaigned for this office, I spent a full year walking door-to-door talking to the voters of northern Macomb County. And as I listened to them, I heard the same concern mentioned over and over again -- jobs. They simply want to be able to work and provide for their families. So I promised those voters that if I was elected, I would do everything in my power to create an environment in Michigan that would attract businesses and jobs to our state. They don't want finger-pointing, confrontation and name-calling, and I won't stoop to that level.

That is why I find it so frustrating when I see a "union labor leader" targeting conservative politicians like myself with the kind of offensive remarks that James P. Hoffa made this past Labor Day here in Detroit. Hoffa is the president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), and on Labor Day, all eyes were on him as he stood before the national media and said " ... Let's take these sons of bitches out."

I represent "all of the workers" in my Senate district -- those represented by public unions like teachers, police and firefighters; those who work for the auto companies and are members of the UAW; and those who work, pay taxes and do not belong to any union. I will not pit one group against another for political gain. I will work my hardest to make sure that businesses want to locate here in Michigan, and that they can grow and provide jobs for the residents of

our state - no pre-conditions.

Workers want jobs, and we need to start acting like we welcome businesses here, not driving them away. Several years ago, Volkswagen was deciding where to locate a new assembly plant that it planned to build in North America, primarily to supply the American market. It had supposedly narrowed its possible choices to Alabama, Tennessee and Michigan.

Michigan should have been the logical choice; we have the infrastructure, we have the trained workforce and we have the suppliers. However, we are also perceived in a very negative way as a state that is not business-friendly. Hoffa's comments and conduct only enhance that perception.

This is exactly why Volkswagen decided to locate in a "right to work" state where workers are free to decide whether or not they want to join a union. They chose to locate to Chattanooga, Tenn., and will employ 2,000 workers. That is 2,000 jobs that belong in Michigan.

Hoffa and people of his ilk really should get off the dime with their criticisms of the tea party. The tea party stands for fiscal responsibility. They have had the courage to stand up and say that the spending by government has become obscene. Considering that both GM and Chrysler went bankrupt, I suggest that Mr. Hoffa embrace their principles.

Remember to Catch Senator Brandenburg on Lansing Update With Phil Nye on Your Cable Provider's Public Access Channel

Comcast Channels 5 or 12

Wow Channel 10

AT&T Channel 99

This Month's Highlighted Publications

Please contact my office for a hard copy or go to my website for an electronic copy

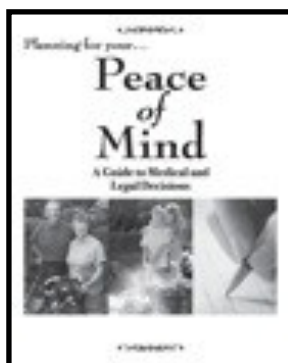
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senators/Brandenburg.asp?District=11>



With autumn in the air, Michigan's hunting heritage takes center stage. Whether you hunt deer, turkey, waterfowl or small game, our state has some of the best opportunities around. Along with a legislative report, this newsletter provides safety tips, hunting resources and more.

Services for Seniors

To enhance senior living, this booklet describes state programs and services related to tax credits and additional taxation issues, Medicare and Medicaid, nursing homes and other long-term care options, consumer protection, housing, transportation, employment, and senior discount programs.



Planning for Your Peace of Mind

This booklet provides information about making a will and designating medical care preference in case of incapacity. This booklet contains forms for organ donation, the Michigan Statutory Will, and the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, as well as a personal records form to allow family to locate important legal and personal documents.

Changes and Choices

In a question-and-answer format, this booklet highlights senior legal issues pertaining to disability and consent, age discrimination, tax benefits, pension rights, consumer protection, legal resources, and wills and estate planning. Additional detailed information encompasses Medicare and Medicaid eligibility, asset determination, funeral expenses, rights of nursing home residents, and what to look for when choosing a nursing home.

